

# **BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, November 9, 2015**

**The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, November 9, 2015, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, John Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.**

**Present: John Bento, Chairperson; Paul Silva, Vice-Chairperson; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, William O'Dell, John Saviano, Erin Schofield and Lynn Wainwright; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy & Title 1; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration & Finance**

## **OPENING BUSINESS**

**All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

## **AGENDA FOCUS:**

### **Digital Learning Presentation**

**Dr. Mario Andrade introduced Mr. Tom Driscoll, Director of Educational Technology. Dr. Andrade acknowledged the incredible**

**strides Mr. Driscoll has made in educational technology during the short period of time he has been Director.**

**Mr. Driscoll began his presentation demonstrating the technology tool, Kahoot.it, where School Committee members participated in a simulated student engagement exercise.**

**Mr. Driscoll explained the different functions of the Bristol Warren Educational Technology website.**

**Mr. Driscoll expanded upon the following technology themes:**

**Creation & Collaboration**

- o Make Learning Visible**
- o Amplify Student Voice**

**Mr. Driscoll shared PowerPoint slides showcasing BWRSD classrooms utilizing various programs to “make learning visible”.**

**Assessment for Learning**

- o Analytics Inform Instruction**

**Mr. Driscoll shared forms of media used for this process.**

**Expanded Learning Opportunities**

- o Anytime, Anywhere access**

**Mr. Driscoll shared examples.**

### **Professional Learning**

#### **o Flexible, Collaborative & Job Embedded**

**Mr. Driscoll shared about several professional learning opportunities that BWRSD educators recently participated in. He also expanded upon types of media used by educators to enhance their professional learning.**

### **Moving Forward**

#### **o Blended Learning Models**

#### **o Open Educational Resources (OERs)**

#### **o Digital Learning Lab Classrooms**

#### **o Hour of Code (introducing computer program coding)**

#### **o Google Apps for Education (Google Classroom)**

#### **o Future Ready Initiative**

**Dr. Andrade stated that Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Morris are working together to create a standard sign-in place through the Google platform.**

**Mrs. Wainwright would like School Committee members to be kept apprised of new advances in student technology through Professional Development. Chairman Bento responded that**

**technology has been included within the School Committee Goals. He agreed that Technology Professional Development could be offered to School Committee members.**

**Mrs. McBride commented that she believes advances in student technology are wonderful, but she cautioned that moving forward she wants to ensure that student socialization is kept intact. Dr. Andrade responded clarifying that all learning is social. The advance of computers in the classroom empowers students to become engaged in their own learning, but the main focus of learning will always be based on interaction with the teachers and fellow students.**

**Mrs. Schofield requested that community forums be put in place to educate parents on advances in student technology. Mr. Driscoll responded that currently KMS is conducting a parent forum called the “Happy Hour” to share about advances in student technology.**

**Dr. Andrade cautioned that Educational Technology is still a grassroots movement at BWRSD. The District is currently only three months into this movement. Dr. Andrade would like teachers to be comfortable in their work, and advises at least eight months of success to ensure excellence before sharing out.**

**Chairman Bento thanked Mr. Driscoll for the outstanding BWRSD Educational Technology Program.**

**Chairman Bento stated, for the record, that he would be rearranging the agenda to accommodate an audience member present for the discussion on HVAC & Cooling System.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM**

**Selwyn Sharp – Bristol, expressed his frustration that students are suffering in classrooms due to excessive heat from lack of air conditioning during the hotter weeks of the school year. He believes that safeguards should be put in place to ensure students do not suffer ill-effects from the heat.**

**Mr. Sharp stated that he and his wife would like AC window units placed in the classrooms, and would be willing to help to that end.**

**He commented that there are also heating issues in the winter with classroom temperatures becoming too high.**

**Mr. Sharp would like the issue of classroom temperatures addressed as soon as possible. He thanked the School Committee for their time.**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

### **HVAC & COOLING SYSTEM DISCUSSION**

**Chairman Bento shared a brief overview of the events leading up to the HVAC & Cooling System discussion. Chairman Bento stated that he has spoken with the Superintendent, School Committee members, Director of Facilities, Administration, teachers, parents, students and**

**RIDE. All are in agreement that the health of the District's children is important.**

**Chairman Bento shared many of the factors which would make providing air conditioning for each of the District's schools a difficult task.**

**Chairman Bento recommended moving forward with the Five Year Asset Protection Plan which includes HVAC coverage. He clarified that HVAC coverage does not include cooling, and would need to be a secondary add-on were it to be considered. Chairman Bento also recommended alternative short-term solutions such as hydration, providing water coolers for each classroom, fans, window tinting, and outdoor classroom time.**

**Mr. Simmons, Facilities Director, stated that no schools in Rhode Island, with buildings the same age as Bristol/Warren, have air conditioning throughout. Mr. Simmons shared information about possible long-term plans for cooling.**

**Mr. O'Dell asked Mr. Simmons to provide solid data regarding the building requirements necessary to cool the District's schools in order to allow the School Committee to make an informed decision. Mr. Simmons responded that he would have no problem providing such data.**

**Mr. Simmons stated, for the record, that AC window units are not an option for the District. The electrical code requires that every single AC window unit requires its own circuit which would result in a major electrical overhaul at the schools. The only feasible option for the District would be a roof top unit or an outside chiller.**

**Mrs. Silva commented that it might make sense for some schools within the District to include an AC unit add-on as part of their HVAC project, but this may not work for all Bristol Warren schools.**

**Vice-Chairman Silva reiterated that efficiency of both the cooling and heating systems within the District has been part of the Five Year Protection Plan for two cycles.**

**Dr. Andrade clarified that the short-term cooling solutions for the BWRSD schools would incur zero cost and would employ common sense such as classes held outside; lowering shades, and water breaks. Dr. Andrade added that creativity with the resources the District has is key.**

**Dr. Andrade commented that a lot of time and effort has been put into the Asset Protection Plan. He stated that the HVAC system is a top priority in the school buildings. Dr. Andrade encouraged community members to come out to the budget meetings in March when the District will look to upgrade the school buildings as part of the budget. He encouraged community members to support the District's**

**budget in March.**

## **AGENDA FOCUS**

### **Superintendent's Goals Presentation**

**Dr. Andrade shared an overview of the four major areas highlighted within the Superintendent's Goals.**

- Student Achievement**
- College & Career Readiness**
- Communication**
- Operational Efficiencies**

**Dr. Andrade stated that he is looking forward to working with the Personal Subcommittee to develop measurements for evaluating the Superintendent's Goals.**

**School Committee members asked questions, and shared comments and concerns regarding the Superintendent's Goals.**

**A lengthy discussion ensued.**

**Chairman Bento requested that any School Committee members who would like to meet with Dr. Andrade to discuss the Superintendent's Goals do so prior to the next School Committee meeting. Chairman Bento stated that a revised draft of the Superintendent's Goals will be discussed at the business meeting on November 23rd. The final**



**Superintendent's Goals will be voted upon at the December business meeting on December 14th.**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

### **School Committee Goals**

**Chairman Bento stated that for the purpose of finalizing specific goal assignments the School Committee Goals will be reviewed line by line.**

**Chairman Bento raised several School Committee goals up for clarification and possible revision.**

**A lengthy discussion ensued.**

**MOTION: At 9:45 p.m. Mrs. McBride made a motion to continue the Regular Business Meeting past 10:00 p.m. if necessary; seconded by Mrs. Wainwright.**

**The motion passed with a 5-3 vote; Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. McBride and Mr. O'Dell dissenting.**

**The Secretary to the School Committee made note of discussed changes and will provide a revised copy to the School Committee Chairman.**

**ADJOURNMENT – 9:50 P.M.**

**MOTION: At 9:50 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting;  
seconded by Mrs. Campbell.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/kd**